

Message Text

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SUBJECT: FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL TO BE REORGANIZED,
REFLECTING ITS DIMINISHED RESPONSIBILITIES

1. APRIL 19 PRESS CARRIED REPORT OF PREVIOUS DAY'S FEC (CABINET) SESSION AT WHICH FEC HAD "ACCEPTED" PROPOSED LEGISLATION REORGANIZING THAT BODY. ACCORDING PRESS, NEW BILL CALLS FOR ONLY SIX FEDERAL SECRETARIATS: FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NATIONAL DEFENSE, INTERNAL AFFAIRS, MARKET AND PRICES, FINANCE, FOREIGN TRADE. (THIS MEANS FIVE SECRETARIATS ARE TO BE DROPPED: ECONOMY, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORTATION, LABOR-SOCIAL POLICY, JUSTICE-GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.)

2. IN ADDITION TO SIX SECRETARIATS, THERE ARE TO BE ELEVEN FEDERAL COMMITTEES: SOCIAL PLANNING, ENERGY AND INDUSTRY, AGRICULTURE, TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION, TOURISM, ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE, SCIENCE AND CULTURE, JUSTICE, INFORMATION. PRESIDENTS OF FEDERAL COMMITTEES TO BE FEC MEMBERS ALONG WITH FEDERAL SECRETARIES.

3. NEW BILL CALLS FOR FEC TO INCLUDE "AT LEAST" THREE
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MEMBERS FROM EACH REPUBLIC, TWO FROM EACH PROVINCE --

I.E., MINIMUM OF 22 (PRESENT NUMBER IS 28). ASSEMBLY OF THE SFRY (NEW FEDERAL ASSEMBLY) WILL CHOOSE ONE OR MORE VICE PRESIDENTS AND FED SECRETARY FROM RANKS OF FEC MEMBERS.

4. COMMENT: CHANGES REFLECT FACT THAT UNDER NEW YUGOSLAV CONSTITUTION FURTHER DECENTRALIZATION OF GOVERNMENT (AS AGAINST PARTY) ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS IS CALLED FOR. NEW ASSEMBLY OF THE SFRY, HOWEVER, WILL BE MORE POWERFUL THAN ITS PREDECESSOR BODY. FOR ONE THING, ASSEMBLY TAKES OVER FROM FEC IMPORTANT RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORKING OUT RESOLUTION OF INTERESTS OF REPUBLICS AND PROVINCES BEFORE LEGISLATIVE DECISIONS ARE TAKEN IN CERTAIN CRITICAL AREAS, PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVING ECONOMY. FEC VICE PRESIDENT VRATUSA COMMENTED TO AMBASSADOR THE OTHER DAY THAT INTENT WAS TO TRANSFER THIS KEY RESPONSIBILITY FROM BUREAUCRATS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS (I.E., WORKER-DELEGATES).

5. THE BIJEDIC CABINET STARTED OUT IN JULY 1971 AS 22-MEMBER BODY BUT JUST FOUR MONTHS LATER WAS INCREASED TO 28, OSTENSIBLY AS WAY FOR BIJEDIC TO GET DESIRED MEN FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AGRICULTURE AND TRANSPORT. INCREASE IN SIZE ALSO SAID AT THAT TIME TO HAVE BEEN SOP TO SERBS, WHO WERE UNHAPPY THAT VOJVODINA AND KOSOVO BETWEEN THEM HAD FOUR MEMBERS ON FEC AS AGAINST THREE FOR SERBIA PROPER.
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